

Biographies of Facilitator and Panelists

**Civic Center Taskforce
November 21, 2005**

Ian Vingoe ***Facilitator***

Mr. Vingoe has specialized in feasibility studies, programming and design of public assembly facilities over his 26-year career, with an emphasis on arenas. His solutions are characterized by functional use of resources and budget control. Each feasibility study is undertaken as a unique assignment responsive to the client's Civic and/or institutional environment, business model, operational philosophy and culture.

Panelists

Ashley Capps ***AC Entertainment***

A lifetime music fan, Ashley Capps has been a concert promoter and producer, radio show host and a club owner. In 1990 he formed A. C. Entertainment, Inc. to produce and promote concerts throughout the southeastern United States. Since then, the company has presented thousands of concerts and festivals in more than 40 markets throughout the country, working with Dave Matthews Band, Widespread Panic, The Allman Brothers Band, Harry Connick Jr., matchbox twenty, Bob Dylan, Lyle Lovett, The Black Crowes, Santana, Alison Krauss & Union Station, and Willie Nelson, to name but a few.

In 2002, Ashley conceived and created the Bonnaroo Music Festival in Manchester, Tenn. Featuring a multi-faceted array of music and groundbreaking special attractions, the Bonnaroo Music Festival made history by selling out all 70,000 tickets on the Internet only, with no traditional paid advertising of any kind. With acclaim ranging from USA Today to CNN to The New York Times and beyond, Bonnaroo was voted "Festival of the Year" by Pollstar in February 2003. In June of 2004, Rolling Stone magazine cited the Bonnaroo Festival as "One of the 50 Greatest Moments in the History of Rock and Roll." The 4th Annual Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival took place this past June.

Since 1996 A. C. Entertainment has also managed Knoxville's Historic Tennessee Theatre. The "Official State Theatre of Tennessee", this classic venue is home to the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and the Knoxville Opera Company. In addition, A. C. Entertainment programs a variety of fine arts and concert events, including contemporary theater and dance, along with world-class jazz and classical music. The Tennessee Theatre just re-opened in 2005 following an extensive \$25 million renovation that has made it one of the most spectacular venues in the country. In addition, plans were announced recently for A. C. Entertainment to take over the management and operations for Knoxville's other historic venue, the intimate Bijou Theater.

Steven Hageman
Asheville Symphony

Steven Hageman has been the Executive Director of the Asheville Symphony for the past eight years. In that capacity, he is responsible the production and presentation of all the symphony concerts. The Asheville Symphony has performed in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium for more than 20 years. In addition to the Auditorium, the orchestra has presented several Pops concerts in the arena. In his role as Executive Director and as a cultural tourist, Mr. Hageman has visited many performing arts centers around the country. As a member of the American Symphony Orchestra League, he has had the opportunity to visit other orchestras in the US and tour their halls, including the Woodruff Center in Atlanta, Benoroya Hall in Seattle and the new Strathmore Center in Maryland.

Representing the Asheville Symphony, Mr. Hageman has been involved with the Civic Center Task Force and the plans developed by Heery Associates and other subsequent proposals. As a member of the arts community, he has collaborated with many other arts organizations including Asheville Bravo Concerts, Asheville Lyric Opera and the Diana Wortham Theatre.

This season the Asheville Symphony will be performing in additional venues including the Porter Center at Brevard College, the Lelia Patterson Center at Fletcher Academy and the new Fine and Performing Arts Center on the campus of Western Carolina University.

John A. Patterson
Western Carolina Productions

Our company history began in 1974 when the City of Asheville completed construction of a beautiful new Civic Center. The facility was there but there was nothing going on in it. The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce stepped up and hired my former partner E. Warden Phillips to develop and produce events at the new Asheville Civic Center. By 1976 The Chamber decided it no longer need to be in the event production business and Mr. Phillips at the Chambers urging, formed Western Carolina Productions, Inc. to continue the events that he had established with the Chamber. The Mountain Living Show and the Western Carolina Business and Industrial Expo drew crowds in excess of 30,000.

I joined the company in 1980 and pursued an expansion program that led to our producing events in other venues in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee. I recall many hours with Mr. Phillips and I brainstorming to develop new events to fill dark days at the Asheville Civic Center. It was our mission from the beginning to keep the building busy. In the mid through late 1980's, Western Carolina Productions, Inc. rented the Asheville Civic Center more event days than any other tenant during the course of the year. Upon Mr. Phillips retirement in 1989 I assumed sole ownership of the company.

We currently produce the Western Carolina Home Show, and The Outdoor Sports, RV and Boat Show at the Asheville Civic Center. Both of these events have a history going back over 30 years with roots in the Mountain Living Show. In 2004 we established the Mountain Living Log and Timber Frame Home Show. This event is rapidly turning into one of the most productive shows in the Log and Timber Frame industry nationwide.

Jack Meyer, Vice President of Programming
Nederlander Producing Company Of America

Jack has worked with touring companies for over 16 years. In his current capacity with Nederlander, he is responsible for the programming and management of 7 Nederlander Broadway series including Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, Tucson, Knoxville, Asheville and N. Charleston, SC. He purchases over \$20 million worth of entertainment annually. Jack is a graduate of Michigan State University and is a member of the League of American Theatres and Producers.

Nederlander, along with PFM of Providence, RI, was recently awarded the management contract for the new 2800 seat Durham Center for the Performing Arts scheduled to open in Durham, NC during the 2008-2009 season.

Sean Henry
Palace Sports

In his seventh year in the Tampa with Palace Sports and Entertainment and the Tampa Bay Lightning, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Sean Henry is responsible for all business activities, business development building improvements, governmental relations and facility and event operations. In the six years Henry has spent working for PS & E in Tampa, he has helped the company turn the St. Pete Times Forum into an arena lauded for its industry innovation and one of the busiest venues in the country. Henry has spearheaded the restructuring of virtually every service and business relations contract, the design, construction and operation of all the improvements to the Times Forum during PS & E's tenure. This aggressive business approach has allowed the organization to elevate client and guest experiences, while also improving the arena's financial bottom line.